



BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH
WEDDING PROTOCOLS
COUPLES SEEKING THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Congratulations on your engagement! We look forward to working with you as you prepare to receive the gift of the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony.

All weddings at Blessed Sacrament are celebrated according to the liturgical norms of the Roman Catholic Church, the policies of the Diocese of Covington and the pastor of Blessed Sacrament Parish.

It is the right and the responsibility of the pastor to witness marriages within his parish jurisdiction, as well as, to ensure that couples are properly prepared for the Sacrament of Matrimony. All couples are required to meet with the pastor or his delegate prior to the scheduling of a wedding.

Couples requesting a priest or deacon not assigned to Blessed Sacrament to witness their nuptials must first receive permission from the pastor or his delegate. (Note: It is unlikely that this permission would be withheld.) Priests/deacons who are not assigned to Blessed Sacrament Parish do not typically have the faculty to witness a marriage within the parish and by law must submit a request for delegation. The pastor of Blessed Sacrament requires that delegation be requested in writing via a letter that includes the full names of the bride and groom, the date of the wedding ceremony, and an indication that they will oversee the immediate marriage preparation of the engaged couple and fulfill the requirements for preparation in the Diocese of Covington.

Please be aware of some local protocols for all weddings at Blessed Sacrament:

1. Timing

- a. Weddings must begin promptly at the scheduled time.
- b. The church must be cleared within 30 minutes after the ceremony.
- c. Photography must conclude within the permitted time window.

2. Rehearsals

- a. Are required for all weddings.
- b. Visiting priests/deacons are expected to attend and lead the rehearsal unless other arrangements have been made with the pastor.
- c. May be no more than 60 minutes.
- d. Attire, Food, Noise policies are expected to be followed.

3. Paperwork

- a. The Diocese of Covington Marriage paperwork must be provided to the parish office a week before the wedding to ensure proper delegation is given and the necessary documentation is completed.
- b. A Kentucky Marriage License issued by the proper county authority must be produced at the rehearsal.
- c. No wedding may proceed without a valid Kentucky Marriage License.

4. Music

- a. The Director of Music at Blessed Sacrament is to be given the first opportunity to play the wedding.
 - i. Additional instrumentalists and cantors/choirs can be coordinated through the Director of Music.
- b. Music fees are handled directly with the Director of Music.
- c. All music must be approved by the Director of Music.
- d. All music must be “sacred music.”
- e. Guest musicians must coordinate with the Director of Music at Blessed Sacrament prior to the wedding.
- f. A “bench fee” of \$100 will be charged to all weddings not utilizing the Blessed Sacrament Director of Music.
- g. No recorded music is permitted.

5. Photography/Videography/Live Streaming

- a. Photographers/Videographers are not permitted to enter the sanctuary (beyond the Communion Rail).
- b. Photographers/Videographers are not permitted to be moving during the Liturgy of the Eucharist.
 - i. Any photos during this time must be taken from the back of the church or preset stationary cameras.
- c. Flash photography is not permitted at any time during the ceremony.
- d. If professional photographers are used, it is a best practice to request that guests not take photographs with their own cameras/phones.
- e. Photographs must be completed within 30 minutes after the conclusion of the wedding ceremony.
- f. Drones may not be used inside the church.
- g. Use of live streaming must have prior approval by the pastor or his delegate.

6. Noise

- a. Blessed Sacrament Church is a sacred place that has been consecrated to Almighty God. While talking within the church is not forbidden, it should be kept to a minimum and to a whisper.
- b. Individuals or groups will be asked to “step outside” if they would like to continue their conversations at a normal volume.
- c. Visitors and guests should be encouraged to engage in prayer prior to the start of the Wedding ceremony - praying in particular for the couple about to be bound in the holy Sacrament of Matrimony.

7. Food, Beverages and Smoking

- a. No food or beverages of any kind are permitted in the church building.
- b. Absolutely no alcohol may be consumed on the campus of Blessed Sacrament prior to the wedding. Doing so could jeopardize the validity of the Sacrament.
- c. Smoking is not permitted on the campus of Blessed Sacrament.

8. Attire

- a. All attire should be modest.
 - i. This includes the entire bridal party.
 - ii. Overly revealing clothing may result in an individual being asked to leave.

9. Ministries

- a. Lectors
 - i. Lectors must be practicing Catholics.
 - ii. Lectors must be commissioned in their local parish.
 - iii. Intercessions may be read by a lector if no deacon is present at Holy Mass.
 - iv. Intercessions are to be read by a lector if a deacon presides at a Wedding Outside of Mass.
- b. Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
 - i. EMHC may be used if needed.
 - ii. EMHC may not replace Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
 - iii. EMHC must be commissioned by their local bishop.
- c. Servers
 - i. Parish servers are to be utilized.
 - ii. The parish will provide four (4) servers.
 - iii. Non parish servers may be used with prior permission of the pastor or his delegate.
 - iv. A stipend of at least \$20 is to be paid to each server by the bride and groom.
- d. Wedding Coordinator*
 - i. The parish will provide a “coordinator” to assist during the rehearsal and wedding. NOTE: They will not conduct the rehearsal.

10. The Ceremony

- a. We do not limit the size of the bridal party, however, more than 14 participants (7 groomsmen and 7 bridesmaids) becomes burdensome.
- b. It is requested that only the groom and the best man process from the main sacristy.
- c. It is requested that the rest of the bridal party process from the main entrance.
- d. No runners are permitted.
- e. Nothing may be thrown or dropped in the aisle or outside of the church (ie: flowers, rice, bubbles, etc.)
- f. It is requested that flowers used to decorate the church remain.
- g. No decorations/ornamentations may be placed on the Altar of Sacrifice or the Communion Rail. Flower arrangements may be added to the High Altar.
- h. No decorations/ornamentations may cause a permanent “mark” on the church.
- i. Unity candles, or similar “symbols” are not permitted.

11. Arrangements and Movements

- a. Nothing may be moved or altered in the sanctuary without the expressed permission of the pastor.
 - i. This includes specifically:
 1. The placement of the presidential chair and deacon chairs.
 2. The candles and cross on the Altar.

3. The placement of altar servers.
 - b. The bride and groom are to be seated in chairs placed in the center aisle facing the altar.
 - i. NOTE: They may not sit in the sanctuary.
 - ii. For the sake of processional movements and to aid with photography, the best man and the first groomsman should move the chairs whenever the bride and groom enter the sanctuary. They are to be placed in front of the front pew.
 1. See attached pictures on pages 5 and 6.
 - c. The groom sits on the St. Joseph side of the church.
 - d. The bride sits on the Blessed Mother side of the church.
 - e. The best man is to sit in a chair placed in front of the front pew – St. Joseph Side.
 - f. The maid/matron of honor is to sit in a chair placed in front of the pew – BVM Side.
 - g. Kneelers will be placed just inside of the communion rail for the bride and groom to kneel at for the Eucharistic Prayer and/or the Nuptial Blessing.
 - h. If the wedding takes place during Holy Mass, the best man and maid/matron of honor are to kneel at the Communion Rail.
 - i. The priest/deacon is expected to stand between the Altar and the couple.
 - j. The bride and groom enter the sanctuary via the center opening in the Communion Rail for the Rite of Marriage.
 - k. Members of the bridal party may enter the sanctuary and should enter by going around the Communion Rail near the side shrines.
 - l. Besides the best man and maid/matron of honor the rest of the bridal party is to sit in the front pews on their respective sides. They kneel in their pews if the wedding takes place during Holy Mass.
12. The pastor or his delegate reserves the right to make final determinations regarding all liturgical and logistical matters.

*As of May 11, 2026, the position of Wedding Coordinator is currently vacant.

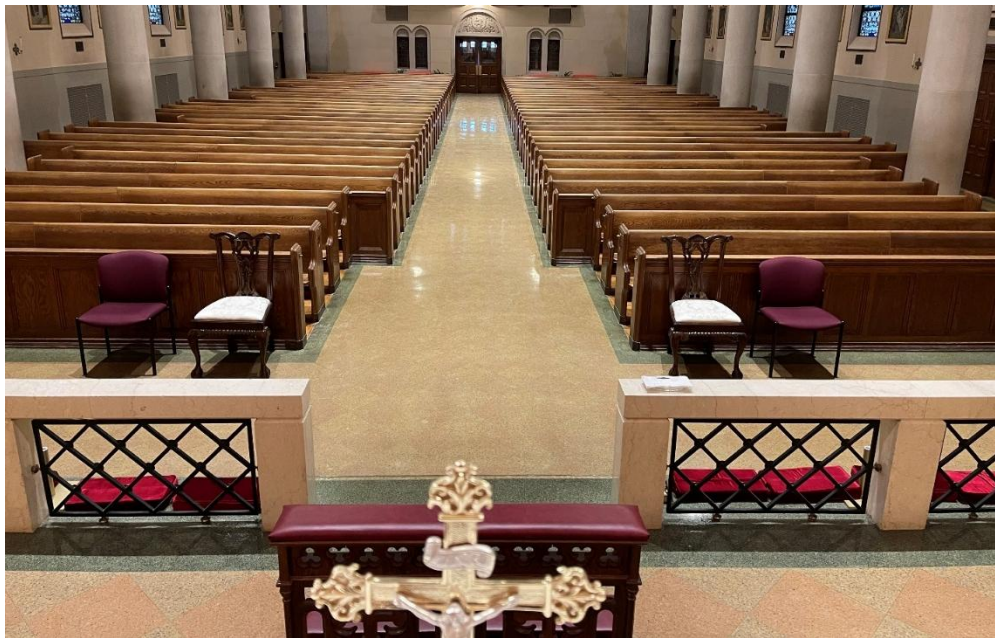
1. Seating arrangement for the bride, groom, maid/matron of honor, and best man.



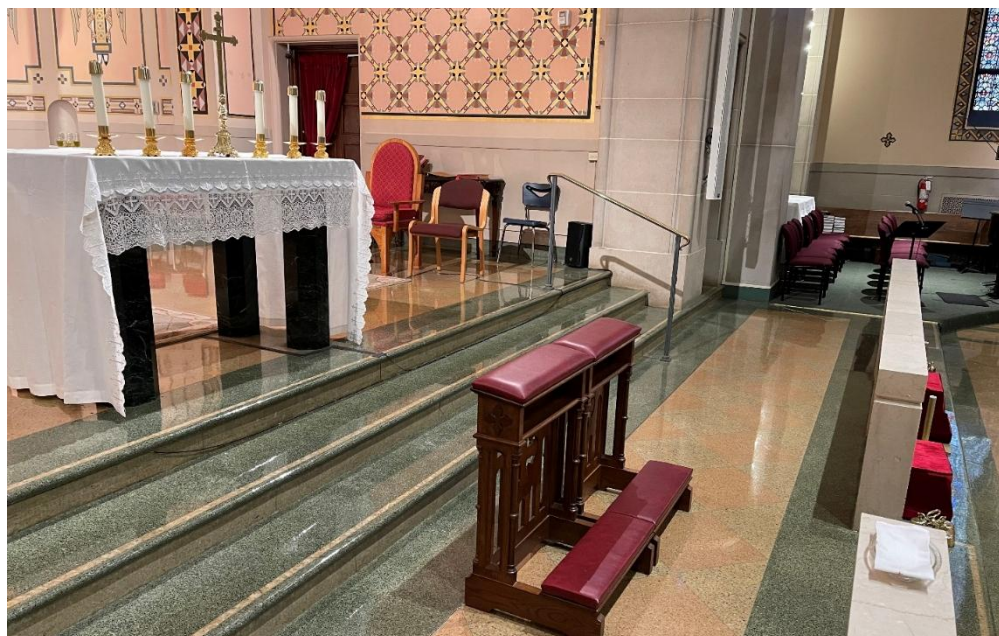
2. Seating arrangement for the bride and groom.



3. Seating arrangement for the bride and groom for the opening and closing processions, and when they enter the sanctuary – Rite of Marriage, Eucharistic Prayer, Nuptial Blessing, Holy Communion, and the Final Blessing.



4. Placement of the kneelers for the Rite of Marriage, the Eucharistic Prayer and Nuptial Blessing.



Promulgated: 11 May 2026
Monday of the 6th Week of Easter